

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/617,539 : Examiner: Unassigned  
filed July 14, 2000 )  
(Confirmation No.: 5655) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Noriyoshi UEDA, et al. :  
)  
Application No.: Unassigned :  
)  
Filed: Concurrently herewith :  
)  
For: SHEET PUNCHING DEVICE AND : September 8, 2003  
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS )  
HAVING THE SAME :  
)

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, the Examiner is respectfully request to amend the above-identified application, as follows.